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MSCI

Index Methodology

# MSCI Equal Weighted Indexes Methodology

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# 1 Introduction

For over 35 years, MSCI has constructed the most widely used international equity indexes for institutional investors. In calculating its international equity indexes, MSCI employs market capitalization weighting where each constituent in the index is weighted by its free float-adjusted market capitalization. Over time, investors have expressed a desire for index providers to additionally provide indexes based on alternative weighting schemes. For example, MSCI calculates a GDP weighted version of its international equity indexes as some investment professionals prefer to weight countries in a composite index by a variable, like GDP, other than market capitalization.

The MSCI Equal Weighted Indexes offer another alternative to market capitalization-weighted indexes. In the MSCI Equal Weighted Indexes, each security has the same weight, i.e. the weight of each security is set to unity on the rebalancing date. Between two rebalancings, the weight of securities will deviate from the equal weight based on the performance of each security.

This document describes the methodology that MSCI uses to calculate the MSCI Equal Weighted Indexes by applying equal weights to the constituents of the corresponding free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted MSCI global equity indexes (herein, "Parent Indexes").

# 2 Constructing the MSCI Equal Weighted Indexes

The MSCI Equal Weighted Indexes are constructed from the applicable MSCI country and composites indexes and have the same constituents as the underlying Parent Indexes. At construction and at each rebalancing, each issuer in the equal weighted index is given an equal weight (i.e.  $1/N$ , where  $N$  is the number of issuers in the Parent Index). Between two rebalancings, the weightings of constituents will change due to price performance. If there are multiple securities of the same issuer in the index, the issuer will be equal weighted and the securities will be free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted.

At each rebalancing, a constraint factor is calculated for each constituent in the MSCI Equal Weighted Index. The constraint factor is defined as the weight in the MSCI Equal Weighted Index at the time of the rebalancing divided by the weight in the Parent Index. The constraint factor remains constant between index reviews except in case of corporate events as described below

# 3 Maintaining the MSCI Equal Weighted Indexes

## 3.1 Quarterly and Semi-Annual Index Reviews

Coinciding with the quarterly and semi-annual index reviews of the Parent Indexes, the MSCI Equal Weighted Indexes are rebalanced on the last business day of February, May, August and November.

## 3.2 Ongoing Event Related Changes

In general, the MSCI Equal Weighted Indexes follow the event maintenance of the Parent Index. Changes in the Parent Index are reflected simultaneously in the MSCI Equal Weighted Indexes.

### 3.2.1 Rebalancing due to an IPO added to the Parent Index as an early Index Inclusion

Early inclusions of new securities to the Parent Index, such as IPOs, will be simultaneously added to the current equal weighted index with a constraining factor reflecting a weight that its issuer would have had as a result of an equal weighted index rebalancing. The weights of existing constituents are then accordingly adjusted so as to bring the total weight of the index to 100%. For example, if there are nine constituents in the index prior to the IPO inclusion, the IPO will be included with an estimated weight at approximately 10%. The weight of the remaining 9 securities will be then proportionately reduced to bring the total weight of the index to 100%.

### 3.2.2 Additions and deletions due to corporate events

The general treatment of additions and deletions due to corporate events is aimed at minimizing turnover in the MSCI Equal Weighted Indexes.

A security added to the Parent Index following a corporate event (e.g., merger, acquisition, spinoff) will also be added to the MSCI Equal Weighted Index with an estimated capped weight.

In the event of a merger or an acquisition where an index constituent acquires another index constituent or merges with another index constituent, the remaining company is maintained in the index with a constraint factor calculated as the weighted average of the constraint factors before the corporate event.

If a spun off security of an index constituent is added to the Parent Index, it will be added to the MSCI Equal Weighted Index with the same constraint factor as the Parent Security.

A constituent deleted from the Parent Index following a corporate event will be simultaneously deleted from the MSCI Equal Weighted Index.

# Appendix

Exhibit 1 provides a performance comparison of the MSCI World Equal Weighted Index with the MSCI World Index, which is market capitalization weighted.

**Exhibit 1: MSCI World Equal Weight Index Total Return performance in USD relative to the MSCI World Index - December 1998 to December 2007**

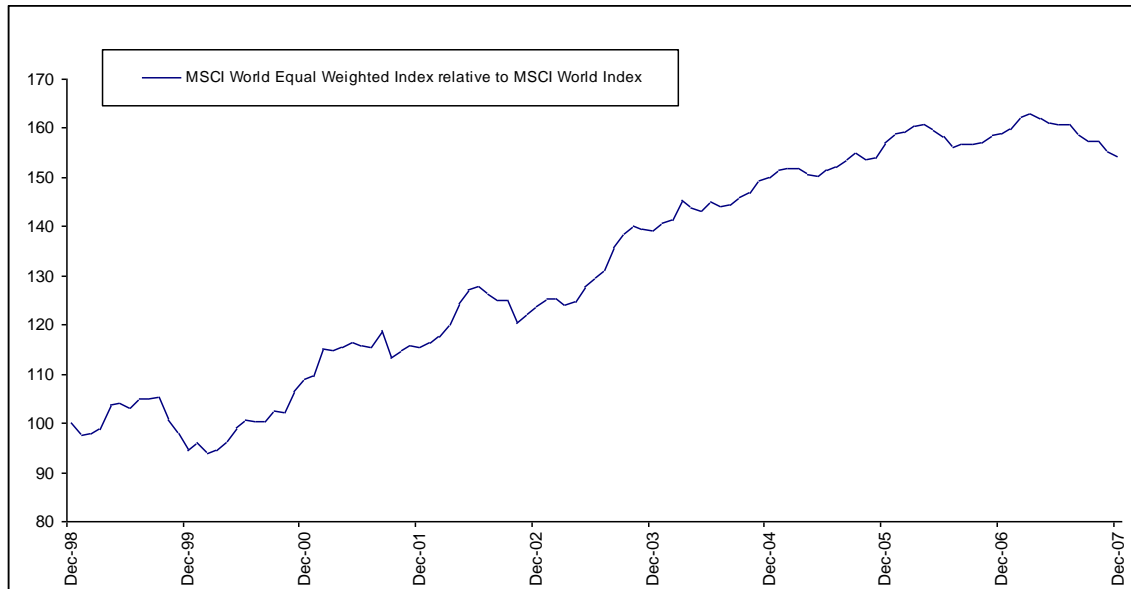


Exhibit 2 provides the annualized index risk and return for various equal and capitalization-weighted country and composite indexes. During the period from December 1998 to December 2007, the MSCI World Equal Weighted Index outperformed the market capitalization weighted MSCI World Index by 5.2% annually. Volatility for the equal weighted indexes is slightly higher.

**Exhibit 2: Annualized Risk and Return: December 1998 to December 2007**

	Return	Risk <sup>1</sup>
THE WORLD INDEX	5.7%	13.4%
THE WORLD EQUAL WEIGHTED	10.9%	14.0%
EAFE	7.8%	13.9%
EAFE EQUAL WEIGHTED	12.0%	14.3%
EUROPE	8.0%	15.2%
EUROPE EQUAL WEIGHTED	11.9%	16.6%
EM (EMERGING MARKETS)	20.1%	21.0%
EM EQUAL WEIGHTED	21.7%	20.1%
AC WORLD INDEX	6.5%	13.6%
ACWI EQUAL WEIGHTED	14.4%	15.2%
USA	3.3%	13.9%
USA EQUAL WEIGHTED	7.6%	15.9%
JAPAN	4.6%	17.9%
JAPAN EQUAL WEIGHTED	7.4%	18.7%

Note: <sup>1</sup> Risk is measured as annualized standard deviation of monthly returns

Exhibit 3 and 4 show weights for respectively the top and bottom ten companies in the capitalization weighted MSCI World Index and their corresponding weights in the MSCI World Equal Weighted Index.

It highlights that in the MSCI World Equal Weighted Index the smaller capitalization securities will proportionally have higher weight relative to their weight in a capitalization weighted index.

**Exhibit 3: Largest Ten Securities by Market Capitalization in the MSCI World Index**

Company Name	Weight in the MSCI World Index	Weight in the MSCI World Equal Weighted Index
Exxon Mobil Corp.	1.82%	0.05%
General Electric Co.	1.33%	0.05%
Microsoft Corp.	1.05%	0.05%
AT&T Inc.	0.89%	0.05%
BP PLC	0.82%	0.05%
Procter & Gamble Co.	0.80%	0.05%
Chevron Corp.	0.70%	0.05%
Vodafone Group PLC	0.69%	0.05%
HSBC Holdings PLC	0.69%	0.05%
Johnson & Johnson	0.68%	0.05%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.46%</b>	<b>0.51%</b>

Data as of December 31, 2007

**Exhibit 4: Smallest Ten Securities by Market Capitalization in the MSCI World Index**

Company Name	Weight in the MSCI World Index	Weight in the MSCI World Equal Weighted Index
Aderans Holdings Co. Ltd.	0.0009%	0.05%
Wihlborgs Fastigheter AB	0.0009%	0.05%
Haw Par Corp. Ltd.	0.0009%	0.05%
Hoganas AB	0.0009%	0.05%
Fuji Soft Inc.	0.0008%	0.05%
Billerud AB	0.0008%	0.05%
Vector Ltd.	0.0008%	0.05%
Goodwill Group Inc.	0.0007%	0.05%
Quebecor World Inc.	0.0003%	0.05%
Johnson & Johnson	0.0003%	0.05%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.01%</b>	<b>0.51%</b>

Data as of December 31, 2007

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The company's flagship product offerings are: the MSCI indexes with approximately USD 8 trillion estimated to be benchmarked to them on a worldwide basis<sup>1</sup>; Barra multi-asset class factor models, portfolio risk and performance analytics; RiskMetrics multi-asset class market and credit risk analytics; IPD real estate information, indexes and analytics; MSCI ESG (environmental, social and governance) Research screening, analysis and ratings; ISS corporate governance research, data and outsourced proxy voting and reporting services; and FEA valuation models and risk management software for the energy and commodities markets. MSCI is headquartered in New York, with research and commercial offices around the world.

<sup>1</sup> As of September 30, 2013, as reported on January 31, 2014 by eVestment, Lipper and Bloomberg